

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 21.3
(ID # 30521)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, July 14, 2026

FROM : FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: FIRE DEPARTMENT: Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution No. 2026-080: Ordering the Confirmation of Special Assessments and Liens Against Parcels of Land Located in the County of Riverside for Costs of the Abatement and Removal of Hazardous Vegetation for calendar year 2025, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 14912 and County Ordinance No. 772 Requiring the Abatement and Removal of Abandoned or Neglected Orchards, Groves or Vineyards, and Ancillary Weeds and Debris; All Districts [\$158,189 Total Revenue; 100% Property Owner Special Assessment to Reimburse the General Fund]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-080 ordering the confirmation of special assessments and liens against parcels of land located within the County of Riverside for costs of the removal and abatement of hazardous vegetation associated with abandoned and neglected orchards, groves and vineyards pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 14912 and County Ordinance No. 772; Fire Department shall transmit adopted assessments to the Auditor Controller Office for lien on July 31, 2026.

ACTION:

Geoff Pemberton
Geoff Pemberton, Chief Deputy County Fire

5/14/2026

Robert Fish
Robert Fish, Fire Department Chief

5/15/2026

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Medina and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Perez, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: Washington
Date: July 14, 2026
xc: Fire

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: *[Signature]*
Deputy

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 158,189	\$ 0	\$ 158,189	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: Property Owner Assessment to Reimburse the General Fund - 100%			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 26/27	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Riverside County Ordinance No. 772 establishes the methodology to declare a fire hazard and force the abatement of conditions including abandoned or neglected orchards, groves or vineyards, and ancillary weeds and debris. The purpose of this ordinance is to reduce or eliminate hazardous conditions on real property that increase the risk of fire, environmental degradation, or other public safety concerns within the unincorporated areas of the County of Riverside.

Enforcement of Ordinance No. 772 is conducted on a complaint-driven basis. Complaints may be received from the public, partner agencies, or through internal referrals. Upon receipt of a complaint, Fire Department personnel conduct an inspection of the subject property to determine whether a nuisance condition exists as defined by Ordinance No. 772.

If a violation is identified, a Notice to Remove is issued to the property owner of record. The notice outlines the specific nuisance conditions and provides a defined timeframe for the property owner to bring the property into compliance. If, upon reinspection, the property remains non-compliant, the County may cause the abatement to be performed by County personnel or authorized contractors in accordance with Ordinance No. 772. Upon completion of the abatement, an invoice is issued to the property owner for the full cost of abatement, including administrative, inspection, and contractor costs.

If the invoice remains unpaid, the County may recover abatement costs through the placement of a special assessment and lien against the subject property. These costs are then collected through the property tax roll in accordance with Ordinance No. 772. The properties subject to assessment are identified in Attachment A to the Resolution. The Resolution and Attachment A will be presented at the public hearing on July 14, 2026. Adoption of the Resolution confirming the assessments and liens constitutes the final step required under Ordinance No. 772 to recover unpaid abatement costs.

Property owners are provided with the opportunity to appeal a Notice and Order to Abate in accordance with the procedures established in Ordinance No. 772. In addition, if a property owner has concerns regarding an invoice issued following County-performed abatement, they may contact the Fire Department for administrative review. This review process includes

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verification of the abatement work performed, confirmation of property location, and correction of any identified errors through coordination with Fire Department supervisory staff.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Abatements pursuant to Ordinance No. 772 are designed to protect life, property, and the environment by addressing hazardous conditions that increase fire risk and other public safety concerns. Conducted by personnel from the Hazard Reduction program, inspections prioritize voluntary compliance and are initiated based on identified complaints. Property owners are provided with notice and a reasonable opportunity to correct violations prior to County intervention. Property owners are also given the opportunity to reimburse the County for the cost of abatement prior to the lien process being initiated.

Additional Fiscal Information

The abatement charges for any work performed by the contractor and the County administrative fee will be included in the property owner's property tax statement as a special assessment. The Board of Supervisors approved the administrative fee of \$254 by Resolution No. 2011-080 with a public hearing on June 28, 2011. The current total parcels are 4 and the total amount to be assessed is \$158,189. The assessments will reimburse the department costs, which are included in the Department's budget and funded by the General Fund.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution No. 2026-080 Ordering Confirmation of Special Assessments and Liens
Attachment A to Resolution No. 2026-080
Letter of Compliance with Proposition 218


Rebecca S Cortez, Principal Management Analyst 7/6/2026


Aaron Gettis, Chief Deputy County Counsel 6/17/2026

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
5-18-26
BY: AARON C. GETTIS DATE

1 Board of Supervisors

County of Riverside

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-080

3
4 ORDERING THE CONFIRMATION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS
5 AND LIENS AGAINST PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED WITHIN
6 THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE FOR COSTS OF THE ABATEMENT
7 AND REMOVAL OF ABANDONED OR NEGLECTED ORCHARDS,
8 GROVES OR VINEYARDS, AND ANCILLARY WEEDS AND
9 DEBRIS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 PURSUANT TO HEALTH
10 AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 14912 AND COUNTY ORDINANCE

11 NO. 772

12
13 WHEREAS, Riverside County Ordinance No. 772 provides for the abatement and removal of
14 abandoned or neglected orchards, groves or vineyards and ancillary weeds and debris; and

15 WHEREAS, Section 3 of Ordinance No. 772 has established a methodology for the removal of
16 abandoned or neglected orchards, groves or vineyards and ancillary weeds and debris in various areas of
17 the unincorporated portions of Riverside County; and

18 WHEREAS, Section 5 of Ordinance No. 772 provides for the mailing and posting of individual
19 notices to the owners of such parcels advising them of their obligation to remove the hazardous vegetation
20 on such lands or be charged for the costs of such removal when the work is done by the County or by a
21 contractor hired by the County; and

22 WHEREAS, such property owners have had the opportunity to object through filing a written
23 request, within thirty calendar days of the postmark on the Notice to Abate, as stated in the appeals
24 procedure established in Section 6A of Ordinance No. 772; and

25 WHEREAS, on those parcels, where the removal was not carried out by the owners, the County,
26 acting through various contractors, has now carried out the removal work required; and

27 WHEREAS, the charges placed upon the parcels is the cost of removal where the work was not
28 carried out by the owners and is not a charge based upon the value of the parcels; and

1 WHEREAS, the Fire Department rendered to the Property Owner an invoice demanding payment
2 covering the costs of the work necessary for such abatement; and

3 WHEREAS, the billing for those parcels listed on the attached "Attachment A" remain unpaid; now,
4 therefore;

5 BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside, State
6 of California, in regular session assembled on July 14, 2026, that the list of parcels and costs of abatement
7 for removal of hazardous vegetation for each parcel as shown on "Attachment A" for calendar year 2025
8 are hereby confirmed and that henceforth said costs shall constitute special assessments against the
9 respective parcels of land and are liens on said lands in the amounts of the respective assessments.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
11 on July 31, 2026, to the Auditor-Controller of Riverside County who shall enter the amounts of the
12 respective assessments against the respective parcels of land as they appear on the current assessment roll.
13 Said assessments shall be collected at the same time in the same manner as ordinary municipal ad valorem
14 taxes as provided by Section 8 of Ordinance No. 772.

2
3 RESOLUTION NO. 2026-080

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6 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE FOR COSTS OF THE ABATEMENT AND REMOVAL
7 OF ABANDONED OR NEGLECTED ORCHARDS, GROVES OR VINEYARDS, AND
8 ANCILLARY WEEDS AND DEBRIS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 PURSUANT TO
9 HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 14912 AND COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 772

10 ROLL CALL:

11 Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Perez, and Gutierrez

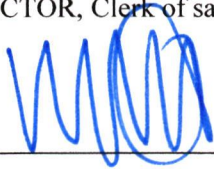
12 Nays: None

13 Absent: Washington

14 Abstain: None

15 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of
16 Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

17 KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk of said Board

18
19 
20 By: _____

21 Deputy



Riverside County Fire Department Hazard Reduction Office

Resolution 2026-080

Attachment A

Special Assessments for the Costs of the Abatement and
Removal of Hazardous Abandoned or Neglected
Orchards, Groves or Vineyards, and Ancillary Weeds and Debris 2025

Parcel Number	Supervisory District	Fund	Abatement Date	Total Cost	City
552210001	3	68-1124	8/8/2025	\$20,393.20	HEMET
930130001	3	68-1124	4/03/2025	\$48,754.00	MURRIETA
553200004	3	68-1124	10/20/2025	\$44,336.45	HEMET
553200005	3	68-1124	10/20/2025	\$44,705.75	PERRIS

CAL FIRE RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE

ROBERT FISH, FIRE CHIEF

210 WEST SAN JACINTO AVENUE, PERRIS, CA 92570-1915

BUS: (951) 940-6900, WWW.RVCFIRE.ORG

TO: Ben J. Benoit
Riverside County Auditor-Controller

FROM: Riverside County Fire Department

SUBJECT: Compliance with Proposition 218

DATE: May 08, 2026

The County of Riverside Fire Department represents that the charges associated with property tax district number 68-1124 identified on the County Tax Roll as is in compliance with the articles of Proposition 218 cited below.

The County Auditor-Controller/County of Riverside agrees to enter all assessments, fees, charges, or taxes for the County of Riverside Fire Department upon receipt of such roll on or about July 31, 2026, based upon such certification.

The County of Riverside Fire Department shall be solely liable and responsible, and will defend, indemnify and hold the County and this office harmless from any liability as a result of claims or claims for refunds and related interest due filed by taxpayers against any assessments, fees, charges or taxes placed on the roll for the County of Riverside Fire Department by the County.

The County of Riverside Fire Department understands and agrees that the Auditor Controller's Office shall not be held responsible for processing claims for refund that fall outside of the normal correction processing outlined within the procedures in the Fixed Charge Processing packet. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Auditor Controller's Office may, at its sole discretion, agree by a separate, written agreement to process such refunds. All associated costs and fees shall be charged to the district.

Article XIII C. Sec. 2 (c) "Any general tax imposed, extended, or increased, without voter approval, by any local government on or after January 1, 1995, and prior to the effective date of this article, shall continue to be imposed only if approved by a majority vote of the voters voting in an election on the issue of the imposition, which election shall be held within two years of the effective date of this article and in compliance with subdivision (b)."

Article XIII D. Sec. 5 "...this article shall become effective the day after the election unless otherwise provided. Beginning July 1, 1997, all existing, new, or increased assessments shall comply with this article."

Article XIII D. Sec. 6 (d) "Beginning July 1, 1997, all fees or charges shall comply with this section."

Kylie R Tillema
Kylie Tillema,
County of Riverside Fire Department Assistant Fire Marshal

5/8/2026

Date

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS • JOSE MEDINA • KAREN SPIEGEL • CHUCK WASHINGTON • V. MANUEL PEREZ • YXSTIAN GUTIERREZ •

PROUDLY SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

• BANNING • BEAUMONT • COACHELLA • DESERT HOT SPRINGS • EASTVALE • INDIAN WELLS • INDIO • JURUPA VALLEY • LAKE ELSINORE • LA QUINTA • MENIFEE • MORENO VALLEY • NORCO • PALM DESERT • PERRIS • RANCHO MIRAGE • RUBIDOUX COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT • SAN JACINTO • TEMECULA • WILDOMAR •